	प्रतिशत परिवर्तन	
	1987–88	1988–89
जुलाई	1.3	1.7
अगस्त	1.7	0.6
सितम्बर	1.2	0.8
संचयी वृद्धि	8.6	—

जैसा कि देखा जा सकता है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष के पहले छः महीनों के दौरान उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में वृद्धि पिछले वर्ष की तदनुरूप अवधि में हुई वृद्धि की तुलना में कम है।

सरकार मूल्य स्थिति पर कड़ी नजर रखे हुए है और इन्हें उचित नियंत्रण में रखने के लिए प्रयत्न किए गए है। इनमें सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ बनाना, आवश्यकतानुसार आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आयात करना, सहकारी खर्च में कठोर किफायत बरतना, अर्थव्यवस्था में नकदी बाहुल्य को समेटना तथा प्रयत्नों द्वारा अधिक उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है। आशा की जाती है कि यह प्रवृत्ति आगे आने वाले महीनों में भी जारी रहेगी।

Formation of an Automatic Teller Machine Corporation

*295. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to form an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Corporation for the public sector banks in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether some arrangement already exists between any of the nationalised bank and any foreign bank for use of ATM facility; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Two public sector banks have operationalised the arrangement at a branch each in Bombay and Bangalore.

Pollution control of gas affected areas in Bhopal

*296. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have undertaken any steps to control water and air pollution in gas affected areas of Bhopal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) (1) The Central Pollution Control Board conducted air and water quality survey in Bhopal immediately after the gas tragedy in 1984. The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has also undertaken monitoring of ambient air in January, 1985 and repeated in July, August and September, 1988. No pollution other than automobile pollution was noted.

(2) Nine water monitoring stations have been set up by the State Board in Bhopal. Some wells in the gas affected areas were found to be con-

taminated with pesticides. One well and a tube-well were closed down. The concentration of pesticides in other wells was found to be in traces which is not harmful.

Memorandum of understanding with Swiss Government

*297. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level Indian team had visited Switzerland in September, 1987 to discuss an agreement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Government of India and Switzerland;

(b) when our Mission in Berne was suitably advised to do the needfull, indicating the dates thereof after it was decided to exchange letters between the two Governments;

(c) when was the letter given to Swiss Government and what was their response, indicating the dates and details thereof;

(d) at what stage the matter now rests and since when; and

(e) what are the remaining steps to be taken and their time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Ministry of External Affairs were advised on 31st May, 1988 to take necessary action for exchange of letters between the two Governments. Indian Mission in Berne delivered the text of the draft letters to be exchanged to the Swiss Foreign Office on 15th June, 1988. Swiss Foreign Office in a meeting arranged on 24th June, 1988 suggested minor amendments in the draft of the letters to be exchanged, and also advised that before the agreement by exchange of letters is activated, they will have to submit to the Federal Council for final approval of the English text alongwith its French version. On 4th November, 1988, the Indian Ambassador in Berne had discussions with the Swiss Federal Foreign Office and finalised the French version of the letters. The Swiss Federal authorities are now to obtain the approval of their Federal Council. Formal exchange of letters can take place after approval by the Federal Council.

Income Tax exemption for Poultry Sector

*298. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poultry farming has been recognised as an agricultural activity; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which this sector is being discriminated against by denying the facility of income-tax exemption as is being allowed to the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Poultry farming is not an agricultural activity under the Indian Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) Does not arise.

Direct Recruitment to the Indian Economic Service

*299. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be leased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have currently suspended direct recruitment to the Indian Economic Service that began in 1961;